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HANDBOOK



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by Cooper.

H. A. SMITH, Esq.



Photo by Cooper.

W. H. FARTHING, Esq.

## FOREWORD

When asked to write this foreword, my mind went back in mental flashbacks to the far-off days of my youth when Harold Flemming was the idol of all West Country boys interested in the Soccer Code. Little did I dream at that time that one day it would be my pleasure and honour to become the Chairman for eleven years of a Club so famous in the West Country as Yeovil & Petters, the name being changed recently to Yeovil Town.

This booklet, full as it is of reminiscences, will, I feel certain, have a wide appeal, and be read by many, both in Yeovil and by Yeovilians afar. We all like to read about ourselves, especially when we are reminded of our past good deeds. In the following pages many will be reminded of the part they have played in the story of Association Football in Yeovil.

In penning these few lines such stalwarts as Mr. Stanley Johnson, Mr. George Fox, Mr. Stanley Gates, Mr. Bill Farthing and many others came to mind. It is to such great sportsmen that we in Yeovil owe much for the high standard of professional Football we are privileged to see during our leisure hours.

I commend this booklet to all interested in this grand old game of Football.

H. A. SMITH,

Chairman.

Page One.



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## Our President

The Yeovil Town Football Club are proud to have, as their President, Mr. W. Stanley Johnson, who because of his benefactions and great interest in the town's affairs, the Borough Council have thought fit to bestow on him the honorary freedom of the Borough.

The club, of which he is a former chairman of directors, and one of the members of the original board since its inception in 1923, has benefitted considerably by his wise counsel and his practical interest.

Professional football by no means claims his undivided attentions, for he will rightly earn the gratitude of generations of Yeovilians for the part he has played in fostering amateur sport in the town. It was particularly fitting that the fifteen-acre arena at Brimstane which he acquired and was largely instrumental in equipping for amateur sport should be known as "Johnson Park."



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# Twenty-Five Memorable Years

By *RON KEMBLE*

Little was it visualised when Yeovil Football and Athletic Club was introduced 25 years ago that the club would rise to win recognition as one of the foremost non-league combinations in the country. No other town of Yeovil's size has ever boasted a professional team with such a fine reputation.

In this Silver Jubilee season the club can look back with pride on past attainments and face the future confident of even surpassing the achievements of days gone by.

Ever struggling against fluctuating fortunes, foreign to glamorous clubs with their opulent stands and soulless directorates bartering for players at fabulous cost, it is the lesser-known clubs such as Yeovil that provide the romance in present day soccer. The team spirit found in the intimate circle of the club is the secret of our progress through the years.

An important development in the history of local sport was the promotion of the Yeovil Athletic Club Ltd., which was registered on May 3rd, 1923, with a capital of £2,000 divided into £1 shares. The new company, of which Mr. E. J. Farr was chairman of the first Board of Directors, with Mr. E. J. Sercombe as secretary, took over the conduct, assets and liabilities of the Yeovil and Petters United Football Club which came into being nearly thirty years previously.

The first step taken by the new Board was the appointment as player-manager of 31-years-old Jack Gregory, who for three seasons had captained Queens Park Rangers. Instrumental in securing his services for Yeovil was his life-long friend, Mr. Jack Spinner.

When, in 1922, Yeovil and Petters United embarked upon the great step of entering the Southern League there were many who foreshadowed a sharp and inglorious end to the venture. It was felt that the heavy expenses such a move entailed—emphasised by the fact that an away match at Norwich cost the club upwards of £60—and the thinly populated area from which support could be drawn would soon bring financial difficulties. After events proved that this pessimism was not altogether unjustified and but for the intervention of a number of prominent townsmen, many of whom were later to become familiar as directors of the club, Yeovil would undoubtedly have ended their career in the League.

Though there was some reason for disquietude on financial grounds, there was no doubt as to Yeovil's playing fitness to enter this important League. In the old county competitions, trophies were won repeatedly and in one season alone, the President of the Club (Alderman E. J. Farr) had charge of no fewer than six.

On all sides it was admitted that Yeovil were fitted for better company than they had hitherto figured in, and a great impetus was given to this when in the first season of its existence as a semi-

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professional club, the Western League and Bristol Charity Cups were won. Few, however, there were who would have ventured to prophesy that in the second year of participation in the Southern League, the club would become champions of the Western Division and prospective champions of the whole league.

Such was the case however. Yeovil won the right to meet Peterborough and Fletton United, the Eastern Division champions, in the final, as a result of a season of remarkable football, 1923-24. In 34 matches they won 25, lost six and drew three, and thus captured 53 points as compared with the 47 of the runners-up, Plymouth Argyle Reserves. The excellence of the attack was revealed by the fact that no fewer than 73 goals were scored with only 30 against. Teams they opposed that season included Pontypridd, Torquay, Bristol City Res., Swansea Town Res., Bristol Rovers Res., Cardiff City Res., Exeter City Res., Llanelly, Weymouth, Newport County Res., Bridgend, Ebbw Vale, Swindon Town Res., Aberaman, Bath City and Barry.

Although Jack Gregory sought fresh blood, he retained a number of players who were with the club in 1920 when the change of ground from Pen Mill to Huish took place and when professionalism was introduced.

Not least among them was the great "Johnny" Hayward, idol of Yeovil soccer fans for over 20 years, during which time he scored over 500 goals. First joining the Yeovil Casuals in 1908, he won county honours and played at centre forward for Somerset for many seasons. Never was there such a prolific goal scorer, or ever likely to be again. Other players who continued to don the "green and white" were the Day brothers, Fred and Wilfred, Percy May and Stanley Abbott.

Newcomers with professional football were Jack Vallis, one of the Bristol goal-keeping brothers, Jimmy Gallon, a centre-half who had two seasons with Chelsea before coming to Yeovil, Jimmy Gardner, a fast-moving right winger who came from Ipswich, the Pidgeon brothers, Harry from Southend United and Jack from Cheshunt, the Athenian League amateurs, Fred Watts from Queens Park Rangers, Canvin from Reading, David Smith from Abertillery and Jock Thompson, a Harlesden Town amateur.

Had the Southern League final against Peterborough and Fletton been played off the same season there is little doubt that the championship shield would have come to Yeovil. Instead, in September, 1924, a hard gruelling game in which vigorous and robust football came out on top against a more scientific display, resulted in Yeovil losing by 3-1. Leading the Somerset team's attack was Harold Scott, a 17-years-old amateur from Torquay, and the left winger was diminutive Andy Wilson, who was formerly with Alloa and Plymouth Argyle. Yeovil team was:—Vallis; Day and Watts; Abbott, Gallon and Gregory; Gardner, Pidgeon, Scott, Hayward and Wilson.

Two months later on November 15th, Yeovil and Petters United made cup history. In all the long period soccer had held sway in South Somerset, nothing compared to the town's achievement in defeating Bournemouth and Boscombe United 3-2, for although Yeovil had gone further than the fourth qualifying stage, never before had they opposed representatives of the English League.



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## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

The record set up by the Bournemouth match, when 5,300 attended, went by the board in the next round tie when a crowd of 6,600 saw Bristol Rovers beat Yeovil by 4-2.

In the years that followed Yeovil could make little progress beyond the midway position in the Southern League, and apart from Dick Radford, a centre-forward from Frienhay, an Exeter and district league team, who succeeded Johnny Hayward, there were few newcomers to Huish.



PAST v PRESENT—BENEFIT MATCH.  
For Tommy Parkin and Tommy McNeil.

Tragedy marred the season 1926-27, when during a Boxing Day fixture against Taunton, Ernest Hyman, a promising young half-back from Welton Rovers, who had attracted the attention of a number of league clubs, met with an injury which subsequently proved fatal.

In the spring of 1927, during the chairmanship of Mr. E. P. Wrinch, who had held office since 1925, Yeovil made an unsuccessful application for admittance to the Third Division of the English League, and a guarantee fund of £1,000 was raised for this purpose.

As in the previous year, Yeovil and Petters United made an early exit from the English Cup competition, being defeated by the Civil Service at Plymouth.

At the end of the season, Jack Gregory resigned the position of player-manager, and Tommy Lowes, who had played at inside-left for two seasons, was appointed as his successor.

The F.A. Cup provided the biggest thrill in 1928-29, for after playing through all the preliminary rounds, Yeovil met Plymouth Argyle at Huish before a crowd of over 6,000. Largely as a result of the brilliant wing play of the famous Black-Leslie combination, the Argyle were winners by 4-1.

A new era, however, dawned for Yeovil football when in the close season of 1929, Mr. David Pratt, the former Glasgow Celtic,

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## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

Liverpool and Bury player, was appointed player-manager. With his coming greater strides were made than ever before, and at the end of his first year, the club showed a profit of £1,284.

With the exception of Wilfred Day, the signatures David Pratt secured were entirely fresh, and included such players as Johnson (Aston Villa and Charlton Athletic), Cheetham (Bradford City), Logan (Plymouth Argyle), Parkin (Exeter City), Bloxham (Torquay), Whitehead (Swansea), Barclay (Accrington Stanley) and McDade, a product of Scottish junior football.

In Mr. Pratt's first year at Huish, Yeovil won the Western League with a record number of points, finished fourth in the Southern League and reached the fourth qualifying round of the English Cup, being beaten at Barry by the odd goal in seven.

Further interest was stimulated the following year by Yeovil and Petters' participation in the newly-formed Second Division of the London Combination, which included such teams as Dartford, Peterborough, Folkestone, Thames, Northampton, Guildford and Norwich.

New recruits who helped the club to create a goal-scoring record of 170 goals were Trevor Edmunds (Bradford City), Arthur Rankin (Bristol City), George Jordan (Bury), and Michael Connaboy, who was on Cowdenbeath's transfer list at a fee of £1,000. Despite an uncertain start the club were runners-up of both the London Combination and the Western League, as well as Somerset Professional champions.

The end-of-season visits of two English League First Division teams, Liverpool and Newcastle United were treats which Huish fans had never before experienced. Nearly 12,000 saw these two games and were more than delighted to see Yeovil run riot and defeat Liverpool by 8-4, and only lose to Newcastle by the odd goal in five. After the Liverpool match, Elisha Scott, regarded as the finest goalkeeper the world had ever known, told me that in all his 20 years of first-class football, never before had eight goals been scored against him.

Splendid as their record had been in the previous years under David Pratt's managership, 1931-32 saw the club achieve still further honours by winning the championship of the Southern League (Western Section) and the Somerset professional competition, runners-up of the Western League and third in the London Combination. Besides reaching the second round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in the club's history, no fewer than 225 goals were scored in the season—an all-time record. Towards this average of over three goals per match, centre-forward Cecil Pemberton, who was acquired from Burnley, created a record by scoring 69 goals. Other forwards who played their share in reaching this colossal figure were Martin Davin (Hull City) 46, Willie Molloy (Dumbarton) 39, Tommy McNeil 22, Arthur Rankin 21, Tommy Millington (Crewe) 12. Dick Pym, the England and Bolton Wanderers goalkeeper, made 66 appearances out of a possible 75.

The F.A. competition provided games which will be long remembered. After playing through the preliminary stages, Hayes, the Athenian League amateurs, were defeated at Huish by 3-1 in the first round. Drawn away to Fulham, leaders of the English





*Photo by Cooper.*

**STAN ABBOTT—TRAINER.**



*Photo by Cooper.*

**KEN SIBLEY.**



*Photo by Rendell & Son.*

**PICTURE OF GROUND SHOWING PART OF "JUBILEE" TERRACE.**



## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

League Third Division, in the second round, Yeovil astounded the soccer world by playing the Craven Cottage men to a goalless draw. The replayed tie on the Yeovil ground, played before a record crowd of over 9,000, was won by Fulham 5-2, a score which flattered the London side.

To replace Pemberton, who had been transferred to Millwall, David Pratt was fortunate in securing Wilfred Lewis, the Welsh international from Derby County. Other first-class players to join Yeovil were George Anderson (Chelsea and Cowdenbeath) whom I regard as the best inside forward the club has ever had, goalkeeper Jones (Blackpool), Terry (Bristol City), Gibson (Bury), Idris Miles (Cardiff City), Tommy Penn (Gainsborough Trinity) and Stevens (Manchester City).

PROPOSED NORTH STAND, YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL GROUND.



*Sketch by Ewart Fox.*

Once again Yeovil and Petters United was to achieve fame by reaching the second round of the F.A. Cup, their opponents being Chester, who were fortunate in winning by the odd goal in three.

During the four years David Pratt had been manager Yeovil had attained recognition hitherto undreamed of, and it was not surprising that his services should have been sought after by more important clubs. He had many attractive offers, and in July, 1933, he succeeded the famous Jimmy Seed as manager of Clapton Orient. In fees from the transfer of players and from friendly matches which he had arranged, Yeovil benefitted by over £3,000.

From over a hundred applications, the directorate chose a worthy successor to Mr. Pratt in the English international winger,

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## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

Louis Page, who came to Yeovil from Burnley. He came at a somewhat critical time in the club's affairs, but helped to make history. Under his leadership, Yeovil advanced further than ever before in the English Cup. In the season 1934-35 they defeated Crystal Palace and then Exeter City, and it was not till they met Liverpool in the third round that their spectacular career ended.

Season 1934-35 was an outstanding one from a playing point of view, but the financial side did not keep pace with it. After the never-to-be-forgotten Liverpool cup tie, "gates" dropped considerably, though the standard of play was maintained. The first team, in fact, played 67 matches, of which 42 (including six English cup ties, four Southern League cup ties, and three Somerset Professional cup ties) were won. Centre-forward Joe Taylor was the leading goal scorer with 68 goals, followed by Tommy McNeil with 42, Jimmy Parle 29 and Louis Page 21.

Among the players who shared in the glory of that season were Tommy Lynch, a goalkeeper from Barrow, who afterwards went to Brentford; left back Len Birks, a former captain of Bristol City; Haydn Price, a six-foot centre-half from Bradford; and Fred Holbeach, an outside-right from Luton.

When Louis Page was appointed manager of Newport County in the summer of 1935, he was succeeded by the former Arsenal centre-forward, David Halliday, who came to Yeovil from Clapton Orient. Through no fault of his, Halliday's first season with the club was a failure. Yeovil's dismissal from the F.A. Cup by Newport, the Isle of Wight amateurs, was a shock from which it was impossible to recover.

After this disastrous start, Halliday was given a comparatively free hand, and dispensing with players already on the books, he commenced team building afresh. Joe Langford (Torquay), Hogg (Cork and Dundee), Burgess (Sunderland), Tommy Mann (Carlisle), Doncaster (Exeter City), Attley (Cardiff City), Smith (Rotherham), Payne (Millwall) and Heward (Newcastle United and Bradford) were the new players in whom Yeovil pinned their hopes to make a comeback after a season in which the club was only just able to keep its head above water.

Hopes were fulfilled. The achievement of Yeovil and Petters United in forcing a draw 1-1 at Walsall in the second round of the F.A. Cup was an amazing performance. In the replay that followed, although Yeovil dominated the play, disaster overtook them in the last minute of the game, when Walsall scored the only goal. And yet in this "Believe It or Not" story, Yeovil were defeated 4-1 by Glastonbury in the final of the Somerset Professional Cup.

The pick of the previous season's players were retained for 1937-38, but newcomers included Reg Kingham, a full back who had been with Luton for nine seasons; Bewick, a half-back who was previously with Walsall and Newcastle United; and forwards, Smith (Exeter City), Kirk (Belfast Distillery and Albion Rovers) and Whyte (Raith Rovers).

After defeating Ipswich Town, Yeovil and Petters repeated the achievement of four seasons before by reaching the third round of the F.A. Cup. They defeated Gainsborough Trinity by the narrow margin of 2-1.



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## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

In the hour of triumph, however, came news of Halliday's appointment as manager of Aberdeen. Typical of the true sportsman that he was, he volunteered to remain with Yeovil until their cup interest were ended.

In a memorable game at Old Trafford, Yeovil won the admiration of a crowd of 49,000—the second largest "gate" in the country that day—in a plucky fight against Manchester United. The lads from Somerset held the United in check until ten minutes after the interval, but then came three goals in 20 minutes and Yeovil were out of the cup. Consolation, however, lay in the fact that their share of £3,035 "gate" was well over a thousand pounds—a welcome contribution to the club's coffers.

In the same season Yeovil won the Somerset Professional Cup at Bath 2—1, but after a grand display at Colchester succumbed in the final of the Southern League Cup 3—1.

To Yeovil as successor to Dave Halliday came Billy Kingdon, a right half-back who was nine seasons with Aston Villa, and two with Southampton. In this last season before the outbreak of the second world war, it was to Kingdon that distinction fell to write the finest page of Yeovil's soccer history.

After dashing the cup hopes of Brighton and Hove at Huish, and defeating Folkestone in a replay, Yeovil shared the honours with Sheffield Wednesday in the third round and were the sole westcountry survivors. It was the third time Yeovil had reached the "big" round, but it was not a case of third time lucky. Had fortune run Yeovil's way at all during the match at Hillsborough, a replay would not have been necessary, for they would have won at the first time of asking.

There were amazing scenes at Huish for the replay when a record attendance of 14,329 crammed every inch of accommodation. However, the odd goal in three sealed Yeovil's fate.

September 3rd, 1939, began the greatest "battle" of all time—the fight for liberty in which past and present players distinguished themselves on land, sea and in the air.

With the re-formation in 1945 of the Southern League, in which 14 clubs took part, Yeovil had the assistance of a number of outstanding "guest" stars, and needless to say it was not long before the team had entered the throes of cup-tie football. After equally sharing four goals, Yeovil were forced to bow to the City at Bristol.

When Billy Kingdon relinquished his post at the end of the season 1945-46, the advertised managerial vacancy attracted over 60 applicants from all parts of the country, including internationally famous Cliff Bastin.

From a short list of six names, a comparative "unknown" to the majority of Yeovil supporters was chosen—Alec Stock, who prior to joining the Northamptonshire Yeomanry in 1939, played for Charlton Athletic and latterly Queens Park Rangers.

Alec Stock, at the age of 27 years, was then the youngest secretary-manager in the country, and must have been a little awed by the enormity of the task which confronted him. To put a club like Yeovil, whose pre-war exploits in cup competitions had earned them an enviable reputation, back on the map after a transitional period of six years, during which time very little soccer had been

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## TWENTY-FIVE MEMORABLE YEARS—Continued.

played in the town, was no mean task. In fact it was an exacting and arduous assignment, especially as his advent coincided with the rapid "drying-up" of Yeovil's flow of "guest" talent from the nearby naval and military camps. To offset this, however, Yeovil began to feel the effect of the nation-wide boom in soccer. Add to this a progressive Supporters Club who understood the needs of the sporting public, and Alec Stock's first season commenced with every indication of being a successful one.

The team steadily worked its way to the top of the Southern League, where they remained for a long spell. Unfortunately, that tough, hard-hitting Welsh team, Merthyr Tydfil, had their eye on Yeovil's exalted position, and although beaten 4-2 in a fierce Huish encounter, finally had their revenge, ending up Southern League leaders.

In the F.A. Cup, Yeovil experienced a solitary goal defeat at the hands of Peterborough after earning a replay on the East Anglians ground in the first round proper.

Largely as a result of the transfer of Johnny Hartburn, Yeovil's quicksilver outside left, to Queens Park Rangers, Yeovil finished the season with a balance of £2,000. Oddly enough it was "the shaft from Cupid's bow" which brought Johnny to Yeovil and not football as one might suppose. If he had not fallen for the attractions of Waaf Evelyn Butt, who was stationed with Johnny at Gloucester, Yeovil would never have experienced the joy of seeing this diminutive winger from Bishop Auckland.

A praiseworthy policy was Alec Stock's determination to give a fair trial to local talent. During the season more local players made first team appearances than at any time in the club's professional history. Ken Sibley and Glyn White from Ilminster, Ken Hayward and Dennis Horlock of Yeovil, and Ralph Davis from Stoke-under-Ham, who also "guested" for Hereford during the war, were all grand players who did credit to the club and themselves.

Among the professionals who made regular first team appearances were Arthur Hickman (Aston Villa), Nick Collins (Crystal Palace), Dave Affleck (Southampton), Paddy Doyle (Everton), who led Yeovil to many a glorious victory, Leslie Gore and Trevor Smith (Fulham), Freddy Mitcheson (Plymouth Argyle). Veterans Joe Langford, and Tommy Mann, who is now handling Bridport's fortunes, were also ever present.

The season's figures tell their own story. Of 45 matches played, 28 were won, nine lost and eight drawn. Goals scored totalled 146 with 65 against. Leslie Gore headed the scorers with 28, Hartburn coming next with 27, and Paddy Doyle and Freddy Mitcheson tying for third place with 22 each. Yeovil reached the final of the Southern League Cup, but lost to Gillingham.

Season 1947-48 saw the acquisition of Reg Swinfen from Queens Park Rangers, Ernie Marshall (Cardiff) and Welsh international Les Boulter. After a brilliant start when games were being won by four and five goal verdicts, the magic spell wore off and the team slipped into a lethargic state. To provide the climax, Yeovil failed to reach the first round of the F.A. Cup, their hopes being dashed 2-1 by Street, the Western League side, in the fourth qualifying round.



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After a deal of experimenting Yeovil again struck winning form, and in two friendly matches with Millwall and Bristol City displayed the standard of football spectators had been longing to see.

Although the present season's league record does not speak highly of Yeovil's playing ability, the team Alec Stock has mustered together compares favourably with the best in the past. Newcomers, rich in experience, who have contributed their share in taking Yeovil to the third round of the F.A. Cup include Leslie Blizzard (Bournemouth), Bob Keeton (Torquay United), Rae Wright (Exeter City), Bob Hamilton (Chester), Eric Bryant (Mansfield) and Jack Hargreaves (Bristol City).

## Represented Their Country

RICHARD PYM (Bolton Wanderers) England 1925, 1926.

LOUIS PAGE (Burnley) England 1927, 1928.

WILFRED LEWIS (Derby C.) Wales 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930

JOHN GILMOUR (Dundee) Scotland 1931.

ROBERT REGAN (Motherwell) Scotland 1935.

LESLIE BOULTER (Brentford) Wales 1939.

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## Yeovil's First Secretary



E. J. SERCOMBE.

For many years the leading personality behind the scenes of Yeovil soccer was Mr. Ernest J. Sercombe, who until his resignation in 1930, was for no fewer than 23 years Secretary of the Club.

His association with the Club began in 1895 as a playing member of the Yeovil Casuals, of which team he became vice-captain, and in his last season—1899-1900—he was chosen to play for Somerset against Devon.

When later there was a reorganisation, Mr. Sercombe became Secretary of the old Yeovil Town F.C., and with the amalgamation with Petters United in 1914 he continued to serve as one of the joint secretaries.

No-one was more fitted to fill the post as secretary when the present club company was formed in 1923, and in this office he served with distinction until his resignation.

Although Mr. Sercombe no longer plays a part in the administration of the Club, the knowledge he has gleaned in his many years experience of the game enables him to offer advice which is eagerly sought after.

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# Master Planners of Success

By F. D. VOISEY

Primarily responsible for Yeovil's achievements of the past 25 years have been player-managers of outstanding ability—Jack Gregory, Tommy Lowes, David Pratt, Louis Page, David Halliday, Billy Kingdon and Alec Stock.

Brilliant footballers in themselves, wise administrators, and sound judges of soccer talent, they have each in turn made their contribution to enhance the reputation of the club.

Yeovil's first player-manager was a former captain of Queens Park Rangers, 31-years-old Jack Gregory, who in his initial season with the club, got together a team which won the Southern League championship (Western Section).

One of three brothers, all of whom were born within a few minutes' walk of the famous Aston Villa ground, Gregory at the age of 17 years was given a trial for West Bromwich Albion and signed as an amateur. After a spell with Willenhall in the Birmingham League, he joined Queens Park Rangers, to whom he returned after serving with the 17th Middlesex Regiment during the first world war. A number of clubs, including Everton, Arsenal, Middlesbrough and Plymouth Argyle, had sought his services, but the transfer fee was set at a prohibitive figure.

In Jack Gregory's second season at Huish, Yeovil made football history by dashing the hopes of an English League side in the fourth qualifying round of the F.A. Cup. Their victims were Bournemouth and Boscombe United, whom they defeated by the odd goal in five. Misfortune dogged Yeovil and Petters United in the first round proper, for in being beaten 4-2 by Bristol Rovers they lost three of their best players through injuries—Tommy Edwards, Harry Pidgeon and Jimmy Gardner.

At the end of the season 1927-28, Gregory, who is still actively associated with Fulham, resigned his appointment, and he was succeeded by the former Newport County inside left, Tommy Lowes, who had been with Yeovil for two seasons.

Although Tommy was only manager for a short spell he made a worth-while contribution. The F.A. Cup provided all the thrills of the 1928-29 season, for after playing through no fewer than ten preliminary games, Yeovil met the famous Plymouth Argyle at Huish. In the visiting team were such players as Leslie and Black, at that time the best left wing pair in the country, and Moses Russell at full back, so was it surprising that Yeovil were beaten 4-1?

Never has Yeovil's reputation stood higher than in the four seasons under the guidance of David Pratt, the former Bury and Liverpool half-back, who was appointed as manager in the close season of 1929. While playing for the Merseyside team, Pratt attracted the notice of the Scottish Selection Committee, and he gained his place as centre-half in a Scottish representative game. After first playing in Scottish junior football, he was for four seasons with the famous Glasgow Celtic F.C.

At the end of his first season with Yeovil, the club showed a profit of £1,284. Was there ever such a creditable record as when he was manager? The facts speak for themselves:—1929-30, Western

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## MASTER PLANNERS OF SUCCESS—Continued.

League champions, Somerset Professional Cup winners; third in the Southern League, 1930-31, Western League runners-up, Somerset Professional Cup champions, London Combination runners-up; 1931-32, Southern League champions, Western League runners-up, third in the London Combination, reached the second round of the F.A. Cup, 1932-33, London Combination runners-up, third in the Southern League, third in the Western League, and reached the second round of the F.A. Cup. A goal-scoring record of 225, 81 of which were away from home, was created in 1931-32.



### YEovil v NEWCASTLE—FRIENDLY.

It was through Pratt's influence and his many friends in England's premier league clubs, that such famous teams as Tottenham Hotspur, Leicester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Liverpool, Newcastle United and Sunderland visited Yeovil for friendly matches. The club benefited by over £3,000 as a result of these games, and the transfer of Connaboy to Wolverhampton, Edmunds to Charlton Athletic, Bloxham to Millwall, Pemberton to Millwall, Jordan to Bradford City, Molloy to Swansea, Millington to Tottenham Hotspur, McAndrew to Bristol Rovers, Davin to Airdrie, Miles to Leicester City, Jones to Port Vale, Terry to Bristol Rovers and Anderson to Bury.

Leaving Yeovil in the summer of 1933, David Pratt succeeded the famous Jimmy Seed as manager of Clapton Orient, now Leyton Orient, after which he was appointed to the Scottish League team Heart of Midlothian. He served in commissioned rank with the Royal Air Force during the war, and on release was manager of Port Vale, until he retired to come to the west country to live.

Pratt's successor was the English international winger, Louis Page, who is Swindon Town's present manager. He was one of the finest outside lefts in the country, and he had spent most of his playing career with Burnley, while the club enjoyed First Division status and in later years when they were relegated to the Second Division.

To Page fell the honour of setting up an individual record by scoring seven goals in a league match against Birmingham at St.



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## MASTER PLANNERS OF SUCCESS—Continued.

Andrews. On this occasion injuries had necessitated team changes, with the result that Page found himself playing centre-forward, thus emphasising his other quality—versatility.

Selected by Yeovil from over a hundred applicants, Louis Page soon made further cup history, for it was during his term of management that the phrase "giant killers" was tagged to Yeovil by the London Press—and how right they were! It was Page who took Yeovil into the third round of the F.A. Cup against Liverpool, after running riot against two prominent Third Division clubs, Crystal Palace and Exeter City.

An incident which occurred during training for the tie with the rest of the team at Ilfracombe, made him almost a legendary figure. He broke his collar bone. Determined not to let the team down, the matter was hushed up, and with his shoulder encased in plaster, Page took the field and played brilliantly, although marked by Cooper, the international full back. The truth came out, however, and spread like wildfire around the ground. Many a silent prayer went out to the game little winger that afternoon.

During his management a notable attraction was the visit of an international team in which he figured himself. Famous visitors included Joe Hulme (Arsenal), Chandler (Leicester City), Rigby (Clapton Orient), Barrett (West Ham), Crompton (Clapton Orient), Jones (Blackburn Rovers), Moss (Arsenal) and Miles (Clapton Orient).

Another change in management was made when Page left to take up the appointment as manager of Newport County, in 1935. His successor was a well-known centre-forward, David Halliday from Clapton Orient. One of the best-known figures in soccer, he had played for Dundee, Sunderland, Arsenal and Manchester City.

After a disastrous start, he began team building afresh, and produced a combination which brought new cup glories to Yeovil. In the season 1936-37, after Cheltenham and Worthing, Halliday took Yeovil to Walsall in the second round. For those who made the trip it will be long remembered. With frost and snow covering the ground, Yeovil forced a draw, winger Doncaster scoring the equaliser in the last few minutes. In the replay at Yeovil on the following Thursday, Walsall entered the next round of the competition by a goal in the 89th minute.

During the following season when cup-tie fever was at its height, Halliday secured the managership of Aberdeen, but sportingly remained with Yeovil until their cup hopes had ended. After Yeovil had been beaten 3-0 by Manchester United in the third round, he went north in a blaze of glory.

Another manager who ushered Yeovil through all the early rounds into the third round of the F.A. Cup was Billy Kingdon, who succeeded David Halliday.

It was this brilliant half-back, who had had nine seasons with Aston Villa and two with Southampton, who wrote the most glorious page in Yeovil's history. Had "Dame Fortune" been kind to him he would have led his team off the field at Hillsborough, victors over the famous Sheffield Wednesday.

When Kingdon left Yeovil after the war to take over licensed premises at Weymouth it was his intention to "hang up his boots," but after events proved that he could not keep out of the game. No-

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YEOVIL v INTERNATIONAL XI. Led by L. PAGE.

one played a more active part in Weymouth's revival than he did, and as player-manager he saw his new club promoted to the senior division of the Western League.

In 1946 Yeovil were to create yet another record by the appointment of the youngest player-manager of a professional club in the country—27-years-old Alec Stock, a prolific goal scorer from Queens Park Rangers. Playing as an amateur for Redhill in the Athenian League, Stock attracted the notice of manager Jimmy Seed, with the result that in 1936 he signed professional forms for Charlton Athletic. Two seasons later when Queens Park Rangers were making an all-out bid for promotion, Stock was transferred to the Rangers, but had the misfortune to smash an ankle in the last match of the season against Reading.

Like so many other players Stock was among the first to enlist on the outbreak of war, and he attained the rank of captain while serving with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry.

Soon after his return to the Rangers he secured the Yeovil appointment. After battling for two seasons against difficulties which were naturally to arise after the war, Stock has every reason to be satisfied with a job well done.

By taking the club into the third round of the F.A. Cup for the fourth time, he has fulfilled his ambition of equalling the records set up by his better-known predecessors, Page, Halliday and Kingdon.

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# Soldiers in Green

By D. G. FOOT

Yeovil's sporting life was seriously sapped by the 1939 shadow. Throughout most of the war, a good game of football in the town was almost as rare as a tasty Gorgonzola cheese. Energetic youngsters could still be seen booting a tennis-ball on the street corners and service teams and civilians, often attired in red, white or blue shirts and long trousers, made full use of the local recreation fields.

But it was a strange Yeovil without the good-humoured, jostling Saturday afternoon crowds eagerly converging on Huish—and the strains of "Colonel Bogey" before the match and at half-time, adding to the magical romance of soccer.

The local Police XI, relieved to let someone else blow the whistle on at least one day a week, combined with several of the old Yeovil team—Jim Graham, Jack Roy, Dave Laing, Harold Heward, Bill Wyatt and Tommy Manns—still living around the town, in an effort to partially satisfy the sports-starved local community. It wasn't a bad side—anyway, the spectators that once again went to Huish, not now so spick and span as it used to be, were not so critical as those of to-day.

There were quite lively games with Exeter City and the Devonport Torpedo Works. In Yeovil's fixture with the latter, the star turn was billed as Arsenal's Bowden, who was to have skippered the visitors. Alas! the English international couldn't turn out because of an injury. We did, however, persuade him to hobble out, in a lounge suit, and kick off.

Then there was the "classical" Boxing Day fiasco. Yeovil were to play a very strong Exmouth Marines' side. The posters went up and the crowd rolled along to Huish. Came the kick-off and no sign of the beefy servicemen. Nearly another hour went by. The spectators decided that a nip of whisky would not keep them warm any longer. They began to get impatient. There was a slight scene. The management acted with tact and gave their patrons free tickets for the next home match. Captain Billy Kingdon ceased, in utter despair, to pace up and down the road vainly looking for the "lost foe." Phone calls were to no avail—the fighting Marines had set out, complete with kit, on their journey to Yeovil. Nothing else was known.

The crowd thinned; just a few optimists stayed on. A few sang Christmas carols. Others swore. Then around the bend by Douglas Seaton's and into the straight tore a military lorry. With a screeching of brakes, it pulled up and out tumbled eleven occupants who had obviously carried the festive spirit a little too far.

After incoherent apologies, a farcical game began. Yeovil won at a canter by 9-0.

Gradually, the soccer routine slid back to normal. And it was very soon evident that the game in Yeovil was more popular than ever before. The tremendous pre-war enthusiasm, for a town of Yeovil's size, was emulated. But as the war ended and the Southern League was re-formed, the Somerset Club naturally experienced the nation-wide difficulty of raising a satisfactory eleven.

## Silver Jubilee

The Jubilee of the Yeovil Football and Athletic Club is a time when a survey is made of the Club's progress during the period of twenty-five years.

Twenty-five years with their possibilities and accomplishments and the effect of the war years to be considered.

Difficulties there have undoubtedly been and such have been overcome by team work and the consistent backing of the Supporters' Club.

We in the Yeovil & District Co-operative Society Ltd., congratulate all concerned with the successful development of the club and appreciate to what extent the Supporters' Club has contributed to the success of football in Yeovil.

The Yeovil and District Co-operative Society is completing sixty years of activity during the coming year, a Diamond Jubilee and the Society also can survey with considerable pride and satisfaction the progress made.

We would like you to consider for a few moments the following statement relating to the Society's development during the past twenty-five years.

	1923	1948
Membership ... ..	3,590	11,979
Trade ... ..	£84,850	£388,130
Share Capital ... ..	£45,898	£207,588
Loaves of Bread Sold ...	389,027	749,855
Bottles of Milk Sold ...	Nil	1,795,739
Surplus available for Dividend	£4,593	£22,483

During the period 1923-1948 our members have actually received as dividend on their purchases the huge total of

**£271,465.**

We have no Supporters' Club—All our members are participants and enjoy with all other members the benefits of co-operation.

From the Management Committee, representing its 12,000 members a very hearty invitation is extended to you, to join the Society and having joined, to make full use of the services available, thus participating with our large membership in the district in the advantages of co-operation.

The Society which caters for so much of the public needs, extends to the Football Club, its congratulations and best wishes for success in the recreational field.

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managerial career was seriously interrupted, but his unspectacular play and quiet, efficient administration, were respected.

One by one, the Houndstone and Yeovilton stars took off their khaki and blue for the last time—and Yeovil F.C. was so much the poorer.

Kingdon, too, who had played nine seasons with Aston Villa and several with Southampton before moving to Somerset, realised that he must think about his future. He became proprietor of a Weymouth hostelry, now so popular as Billy himself used to be at Hush.

New players were needed—and a new Secretary-Manager. A new soccer era was commencing in Yeovil. The path ahead was by no means lined with primroses. What did the future hold in store for Yeovil F.C., the Club that the newspapers had once showered with bouquets and called "England's greatest non-league club" . . . "the super Cup Giants"? We crossed our fingers.

## Yesterday's Players

By S. R. SIBLEY



"JOHNNY"

Yeovil's Idol, who scored 548 goals.

Looking back over the past 25 years, seasoned followers will no doubt readily agree that the continuity of the club's success has in some measure been due to the long line of players, who in turn, have, over the span of years of Yeovil's professional career, played their part in the gradual rise of the Club's status.

It is therefore fitting that in compiling this souvenir hand-book in commemoration of Yeovil's Silver Jubilee some mention should be made of those who by their activities on the field provided the initiating force towards the fame the team attained in the football world.

Perhaps, therefore, in these reminiscences of players of other days who contributed to club history, mention should first be made of the "locals" who inherited their soccer talent in the town of their birth.

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## YESTERDAY'S PLAYERS—Continued.

In turning back the pages of football history—first and foremost in the minds of hardened supporters is the name of **"Johnny" Hayward**. His entry into Yeovil football dates back to 1907-1908, via 1st Yeovil B.B. and Yeovil Baptist F.C. from whence he graduated.

Without under-estimating the abilities of others, he was undoubtedly one of the finest forwards the Club ever produced.

His playing career extended over a period of 20 years, and for the most part as an amateur in the position of centre-forward. His artistry and qualities were such that he became the central figure and talking-point of Yeovil football. His achievements and abilities on the field of play brought him numerous county honours. At the height of his career he was reputed to be the fastest centre-forward in the Southern League, while his deadly marksmanship brought him a crop of goals which made him a much-sought player by a host of famous and well-known League clubs.

It would be no idle boast to suggest that no Yeovil player ever received more offers from League clubs than Johnny Hayward.

Other local graduates who came in at the birth of professional soccer were:—Fred Day, Percy Gillingham, "Darkie" Swetman, Fred Hicks, Ted England, Bert Gregory, Bill Day, Wref. and Percy May, Edgar Cousin and Stan. Abbott.

It is interesting to recall that over this period of years four pairs of brothers appeared in the team at one time or another. They were: Fred and Bill Day; Percy and Wreford May; Harry and Joe Pidgeon; Harry and Tommy Edwards; and Stan. Abbott.

Here are pen pictures of some of the players from the records available:—

**Fred Day** (right back)—First played for a local club, Odcombe. Joined Petters United, played one season, 1911-12, and signed for Yeovil Town the following season. Captained his Battalion team during 1914-18 war represented Upper Burma.

**Percy May** (left back)—Joined the Club after the war. A strong, sure kicker. Knee trouble kept him out of the team for nearly whole



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season. Made a good recovery, and returned to side, continuing for several seasons.

**Percy Gillingham** (right back)—First played for Petters Reserves at outside-right. Joined Holy Trinity F.C., where he developed into a defensive player, and came into the Yeovil team at right back.

**Stan Abbott** (right half)—A local product. An all-round athlete. Graduated with St. John's F.C., Western Gazette, Holy Trinity and Reckleford, before joining Yeovil in 1919. A great whole-hearted player. A great water polo player. Now the Clubs' trainer, succeeding George Lewis, and one of the outstanding personalities of Yeovil football.

**Ted England** (left half)—Wiltshire born, came to Yeovil from Dunstable. First played for Maidenhead. During 1914-18 served with the Royal Fusiliers and was awarded the Military Medal. While serving with the Forces, was selected to represent Irish command. Played regularly in Yeovil Southern League team. Retiring from the game he settled in Yeovil.

**Harry Edwards** (outside left)—Born at Radstock, first played for Albion F.C., a local club. Played for Radstock and helped them to finish runners-up in the Western League and to win the Somerset Charity Cup. He came to Yeovil with his brother Tommy, frequently appeared in the Southern League side. On retiring from the game he married and made his home at Yeovil.

**Bill Day** (left back)—Brother of Fred Day. Another local product, and at the age of 17 got his place in the Yeovil side—probably the youngest ever to appear in the side. First played at centre-forward and startled local fans by scoring seven goals against Minehead. Later moved to left back and became one of the greatest defenders of his time.

**Tommy Edwards** (inside forward)—Brother of Harry Edwards. First played for Welton, and was regularly picked to play for the County, as inside forward to Johnny Hayward. Was capped in 1913 for the South of England against London Amateurs at Chelsea. Awarded colours for soccer at Bristol University. Assisted both Bristol City and Rovers. Joined Yeovil in 1922 and gave consistently good service.

Professionalism brought with it a spate of players from all parts of the British Isles, who in the sequence of years were prominent members of the team. New faces were seen in each succeeding season, some of international fame and on the eve of their distinguished career, while other almost unknown in the football world found Yeovil a stepping stone to higher spheres and the fulfilment of their ambitions.

While the majority's stay with the Club was of brief duration, others remained to conclude their playing career, and eventually make the town of their last club their home.

Still with us are **Jack Vallis**, goalkeeper, one of the first of newcomers, who joined the Club 1922. His outstanding displays are frequently recalled. A native of Bristol, made his debut at full back, a position in which he played during his military days. Turned his attentions to goalkeeping and played for Barry, Dundee and Bristol City. Now a successful businessman in the town.

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**Jimmy Gallon** (centre-half)—One of the most popular players. Signed amateur forms for Stoke City, when only 17 years of age. During 1914-18 war, prior to joining the Forces, assisted Crewe Alexander and Port Vale. Served with the Royal Garrison Artillery and was decorated with the Military Medal. On demobilisation signed for Chelsea, with whom he played for two seasons. Joined Yeovil Club in 1924. A great stylish player and was a great favourite with the crowd. Shortly after the conclusion of his playing career was appointed the town mace-bearer. His death, which occurred this year after a comparatively short illness, was learned with profound regret by all those who knew him as a player and citizen.

**Arthur Rankin** (outside-left)—Sturdy little left winger, came to Yeovil from Charlton Athletic. His outstanding form when playing for Clyde F.C. in 1921 attracted the attention of English League clubs. Was signed by Bristol City, who later transferred him to Charlton Athletic. Established a record when playing for Dykehead, a Scottish Third Division Club, by scoring 33 goals in 28 games. His career came to an untimely end when playing for Yeovil against Taunton, when he sustained a complete dislocation of the right knee. Now "Mine Host" of the Albion Inn, Vicarage Street.

**Tommy Parkin** (left-half)—Commenced his football career at the age of 18, playing for North Shields. His subsequent clubs were Wallsend, Coventry City, Durham City, Exeter City and Merthyr Tydfil. Signed for Yeovil in 1929 and played for six seasons. A popular, loyal and versatile player, and was a great favourite with the crowd.

Of the many other former players who reside in the town are Billy Whitehead (centre-forward), Tommy Rowlands (centre-half), Bob Pullan (centre-half), Sam Cheetham (left back), Tommy Howes (left back).

Doubtless the names of many more could be included, but time and space will not permit a minute search into the records to insert the names of those who have seen service with the Club.

To this we can only add—it is not intentional.

In concluding this tribute to former players, mention should be made of one of recent days, **Ken Sibley**, who but for the unfortunate illness which has overtaken him would have been playing in the team to-day. A brilliant and polished wing half and native of Ilminster, he joined the club in 1946, following his demobilisation after serving with the R.A.F. That his playing career should have been cut short by illness is one which the management and supporters deeply regret.

Finally, the success of Yeovil football has in no small measure been due to the loyalty and team spirit of their players, which has been a major contribution to the high status and fame in the Soccer world.

In this respect tribute is due to the Directors, who in this decade of years, have, despite the many difficulties and problems with which they have been confronted, always played their part, and endeavoured to give the players a square deal.

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# Great Cup-tie Tussles

By *RON KEMBLE*

If ever Yeovil and Petters United made soccer history, then it was on January 7th, 1939, when they forced a replay in the third round of the English Cup. By sharing two goals at Hillsborough with Sheffield Wednesday, three times winners of the cup and six times league champions, Yeovil provided the sensation of the round, and were the only westcountry survivors left in the competition.

It was the third time that Yeovil had reached the "big" round, but it was not a case of third time lucky. Had fortune run Yeovil's way at all during the match, a replay would not have been necessary for they would have won at the first time of asking.

The biggest surprise was that the game was played at all. Even though scores of men had worked throughout the previous day shovelling snow from the pitch, it was feared that the match would have to be postponed owing to the dangerous state of the playing surface. Three hours before the kick-off there were stretches of water and ice over practically the entire surface, but no one gave up hope. Fifteen tons of sand were used in one last effort to get the pitch in some sort of shape.

Happily for the three hundred supporters who travelled to Sheffield, the referee after making tests with the ball decided that the pitch was fit for play. He had the lines marked out in blue.

The unexpected part that atrocious pitch was to play in the game was borne out by subsequent events.

For much of the game it was Yeovil who played like a league side and not the Wednesday. They were at the top of their form. Every man pulled his weight and the credit for the replay went to the team as a whole and not to any one individual.

The drama of the game which proved a tragedy for Yeovil came in the second half. Jimmy Graham, the former Clapton Orient centre-forward, who led the Yeovil attack, raced towards goal and when he was expected to shoot, he crossed the ball suddenly to the middle where outside left Dave Laing was standing unmarked. To



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YEOVIL TEAM FOR SHEFFIELD RE-PLAY.

the dismay of the Yeovil team and their supporters the ball stuck in the mud between the two forwards, and gave time for a Wednesday defender to clear.

Afterwards a disappointed Graham told me that he intended to shoot, but Laing called for the ball and as he was in a better position he decided to pass. Had Graham shot or had the ball reached Laing there is no doubt that Yeovil would have gone into the fourth round!



*With Apologies to Will Hay*

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## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSLES—Continued.

What of those newspapers who had predicted a certain win for Sheffield Wednesday? Here is what some of them had to say:—"Sheffield Star": "Yeovil thoroughly deserved the right to the replay." "The People":—"Yeovil not only thoroughly deserved the chance of fighting again but might have with a bit of luck created the sensation of the round by defeating the Second Leaguers." "Sunday Express":—"Wednesday were fully extended." "Daily Herald":—"Yeovil earned their replay not by desperate kick and rush methods, of which there were none, but by the adoption of the most suitable style for the occasion." "Daily Sketch":—"The gallant team from Somerset played the right game by swinging the ball about and fought back so well after being a goal behind that they made Wednesday and the home supporters nervy."



SOME OF THE TEAM WHICH DREW WITH FULHAM.

A B.B.C. commentator said:—"The general impression was that Wednesday were playing a team of yokels, but I can assure listeners they had no straw in their hair. Yeovil gave Wednesday a fright."

The amazing scenes at the replay will live long in the memories of Yeovil's sporting public. The gate, as was expected, was a record one—14,359 paid for admission and in addition two or three hundred had to be refused admittance. This figure was over two thousand more than the previous biggest gate at Huish for the Liverpool tie four years before. The gross receipts amounted to £916.

All roads leading to the ground were choked with would-be spectators, and to control the huge crowd a large body of extra police had to be drafted into the town. Hundreds of people took their mid-day meals with them, and long before the kick-off every inch of accommodation was jammed. Hoardings, bedroom windows and every vantage point around the ground was occupied.

Such were the scenes of enthusiasm which might well have ended in tragedy. From the Queen Street end came the ominous rending of timber and metal as the shelter sagged under the weight of spectators

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## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSLES—Continued.

on top. Underneath were jammed thousands of people powerless to move. After the shelter had been cleared by the police, it was found that the roof had been split from one end to the other.

After conceding an early goal, it seemed that fortune was against Yeovil, but seven minutes from the interval amidst the wildest of excitement inside-right George Green, who had joined Yeovil earlier in the season from Bradford, scored from a penalty. Sheffield's stamina was the deciding factor in the second half, when Napier scored their winning goal.

Thus ended Yeovil's phenomenal run of success in the competition. Their victims had been Barry, Brighton and Hove and Folkstone (after a replay), and by their magnificent display they had added yet another glowing chapter to the fifty years' story of football in Yeovil.

Yeovil had made their greatest bid for fame. Whoever won were at home to Chester, which meant that the winner of the replay had a rosy chance of reaching the fifth round. It will be remembered Chester were Yeovil's opponents in the second round some six years



YEOVIL TEAM VERSUS LIVERPOOL CUP-TIE.

previously, when the Somerset club were only defeated 2—1, and then they were on foreign soil.

The players in this memorable tie were:—Langford (goalkeeper): Had three seasons with Torquay United before joining Yeovil. Kingham (right back): An experienced player with Luton for nine years. Todd (left back): Formerly with Newcastle and Burnley. Kingdon (right half): Yeovil's player-manager, who had nine seasons with Aston Villa and two with Southampton. Wyatt (centre-half): A local player who attracted the notice of a number of league clubs. Heward (left half): Saw service with Newcastle United and Bradford, and made over 130 appearances without a break for Yeovil. Wilkins

BEFORE OR AFTER THE MATCH !!

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THE GREEN LANTERN  
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A GOOD MEAL at **THE GREEN LANTERN RESTAURANT**  
PHONE: YEovil 74. (REGD.) **KINGSTON, YEovil**

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## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSLES—Continued.

(outside right): Formerly with Sunderland and Swindon. Green (inside right): Joined Yeovil from Bradford. Graham (centre-forward): Three seasons with Nottingham Forest and afterwards with Clapton Orient. Carter (inside left): Was with Ipswich Town and Watford. David Laing (outside left): Joined Yeovil from Watford, but was previously with Liverpool.

A match in that same record-breaking season which is apt to be forgotten by the glory of the Sheffield Wednesday encounter, was the first round tie with Brighton and Hove. They came to Yeovil with a record to be proud of and it was only the most optimistic of fans who prophesied a victory for the Somerset club. Instead Yeovil smashed their way into the next round in a game packed with thrills at the expense of one of the best teams in the Southern Section of the Third Division.



YEOVIL TEAM FOR 1933-34.

Few teams would have been able to fight back after taking the lead 20 minutes from the start only to have it negated by a penalty ten minutes afterwards. When Marriott scored from the penalty the hearts of Yeovil supporters sank, for it seemed to sound the death knell of their hopes. Yeovil, however, stuck to their task manfully and when Dave Laing headed what proved to be the winning goal it was no more than what they deserved.

The first time Yeovil and Petters reached the third round of the English Cup was in the season 1934-35, when they were defeated at Huish by the famous First Division team, Liverpool.

Although they lost 6-2, it is no exaggeration to say that the "giant killers" who had humbled both Crystal Palace and Exeter City, aroused the admiration of the whole soccer world.

Yeovil had progressed further than ever before, and the team led by international left-winger Louis Page, went down in history as the side that provided the biggest surprises of that season's cup-ties.

Such clever clothes!

**RICHARD**

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## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSLES—Continued.

Although the attendance figure of 11,830 was later surpassed by the Sheffield Wednesday tie, the gross receipts of £1,360 still remain a record.

When diminutive Tommy McNeil gave Yeovil the lead five minutes after the start, the scene of enthusiasm was well-nigh indescribable. Liverpool, however, took it with a nonchalance that was dangerous. For almost the remainder of the first half Yeovil were on the defensive and the big feature of the game was the magnificent display of Tommy Lynch in goal. It was 20 minutes before he was eventually beaten by the young South African, Nieuwenhays.

The real turning point came when the teams changed over, for from the kick-off Liverpool were through like a flash and had taken the lead through that grand veteran Wright. In rapid succession Gordon Hodgson and Roberts scored four quick goals in a quarter of an hour, with an ease that was a tribute to Liverpool's artistry. McNeil also scored Yeovil's second goal.

Two seasons later it was player-manager David Halliday's turn to take Yeovil into the "big" round. Their opponents this time were Manchester United, to whom Yeovil went down fighting at Old Trafford before a crowd of 49,000—the second biggest gate in the country that day. At the end of the game the crowd rose to their feet and cheered to the echo as a bouquet to a sporting team. Instead of being easy prey, Yeovil fought every inch of ground.

Manchester should have been two goals ahead at half-time, but instead they found themselves well matched until ten minutes after the interval. In that period Halliday showed all his old resource in footwork and twice came near scoring. Then came three goals in 20 minutes and Yeovil were out of the cup, but they had consolation that their share of the £3,015 gate was well over a thousand pounds—a welcome contribution to the club's coffers.

If pluck wins matches, Yeovil should have been in the next round. For 90 minutes they fought an uphill battle with courage, skill and always with the true sporting spirit. Yeovil had no luck in this game. But that does not mean that the Manchester team won simply because of luck. Yeovil put everything they had into the game and lost to a superior side. Though three goals were scored against them in the second half, the Somerset team were never outplayed.

Here is what some of the critics had to say about the game:—

"Manchester Evening Chronicle":—"Yeovil will always be remembered for their plucky fight."

"Daily Sketch":—"For an hour Yeovil held Manchester to a goalless draw and their defence fully earned the right to be on equality."

"News Chronicle":—"Yeovil can look back upon their first visit to Lancashire with pride."

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## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSELS *Continued.*

"Daily Mail":—"Yeovil, a team of eleven fearless triers, played good combined football on the open plan without, however, overcoming one of the fastest back divisions in the country.

"Daily Herald":—"In defence Yeovil came through with honours during the first strenuous hour."

As early as 1924, Yeovil and Petters United made cup history, for after Westbury, Warminster and Taunton had been their victims, they opposed representatives of the English League for the first time. Neither the opening nor the ending could have been more dramatic than in their 3-2 defeat of Bournemouth and Boscombe at Huish. One minute after the commencement, Yeovil had scored, in ten minutes they were two goals up, and after less than half an hour's play held a lead of three clear goals.

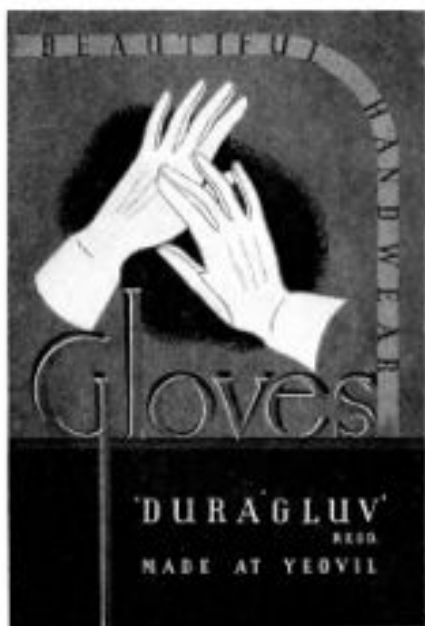
Bournemouth rallied after this third reverse, and then followed one of the most thrilling struggles for supremacy ever put up by a visiting side at Yeovil. They succeeded to the extent of reducing the margin to a solitary goal, but threw away two glorious chances by over-eagerness.

Yeovil and Petters passed out of the cup that season with tails up and colours flying. Their opponents, Bristol Rovers, secured the verdict by 4-2, and although this may seem decisive enough on paper there were circumstances which gave the victory a hollow ring. Truer would it be to say that the vanquished covered themselves with greater glory than did the victors for the clean sporting display of Yeovil's side in the face of misfortunes that might well have excused their adopting some of the tactics of the Rovers, did more to heighten opinion of the team than even another round of the cup could have done.



RALPH DAVIS. Another Local Boy.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good," and the truth of that time-worn saying was never more fully borne home than in this game. Quite frankly the Rovers went into the hat more by reason of accidents which befell Yeovil than on their merit as a cup-fighting side.



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Season 1928/29 is one which stands out most vividly in my memory, for Yeovil and Petters United played no fewer than ten games before eventually being beaten by Plymouth Argyle, in the first round at Huish. Early in the competition Yeovil had lost in a replayed match with Taunton, but an irregularity by the county town led to Yeovil entering the next round. Then came a match with Wells City and three games with Barry, ending in eventual victory over the Welsh club at Bristol. Two games were also necessary before it could be decided whether Yeovil or Salisbury should continue in the competition.

True Yeovil were beaten by 4-1 in this game, but they surprised not only the visitors but their own supporters by the splendid fight they put up. Argyle's clever and polished football after the interval was in contrast to the harrassing the defence underwent in the first half, and it was matched by Yeovil's spirited and plucky fight. Yeovil's only goal came in the closing stages. No doubt Tommy Rowlands remembers as well as I do the goal he scored from fully forty yards out—one of the finest ever seen at Huish.

Twice during David Pratt's managership, Yeovil had second round ties with League sides. In the first on December 12th, 1931, at Craven Cottage, Yeovil amazed the soccer world by forcing Fulham, the Third Division leaders to a goalless draw. Never before had such enthusiasm been shown, and the departure of the team for London, accompanied by 700 supporters, was the occasion for a civic send-off by the Mayor from Pen Mill station.

The replay at Yeovil was quite as memorable for a record crowd of over 8,000 saw hard-hitting Martin Davin give the Somerset side the lead after only nine minutes. That was the only time Yeovil were in front, however, for they could not hold the Third Leaguers and went down fighting to the tune of 5-2.

The absence of George Anderson, the former Cowdenbeath and Chelsea inside-right, made all the difference in Yeovil and Petters United's tie at Chester in 1932, when they lost by 2-1. This brilliant little player ran a spike through his toe in training, but although gamely travelling north, he was unable to turn out. In his place was Tommy McKay, whom Yeovil acquired from Notts Forest, but unfortunately his appearances in the first team had been very infrequent. There was no-one to probe the defence for centre-forward Wilfred Lewis to show his goal-scoring abilities like the old Chelsea player, and it came as no surprise that Chester had a two-goal lead after 50 minutes play.

The second half of this game, played on a quagmire-like pitch, produced an amazing change, and it was Chester who were outplayed. Ten minutes from the end, Lewis reduced the lead. Had there been a few more minutes to play it is more than likely that Yeovil would have forced a replay.

From mud to snow, brings to mind the second round tie at Walsall in 1936. Was there a day more bitterly cold? When the 300

## GREAT CUP-TIE TUSSELS—Continued.

Yeovil supporters reached the Staffordshire venue snow was falling heavily, and there were grave doubts whether the game would be played at all.

The match went on, however, and towards the end of the first half I had the impression that it was only a question of how many goals Walsall would win by. As in many previous cup-ties, Yeovil showed their fighting qualities and equalised nine minutes from the end, through winger Doncaster.

In the replay at Huish, Yeovil and Petters dominated the play for the majority of the game, but disaster overtook them in the last minute, when Walsall scored the winning goal contrary to the run of play.

This story of Yeovil's epic cup-ties is by no means completed, and I look to the future with confidence.

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YEOVIL TEAM 1946-47.



# Progress of the Supporters' Club

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TED PERRETT.

Photo by Cooper.

No history of the Parent Club would be complete without some reference to the part played during the period under review by the Supporters' Club and its hard-working committees.

From a small beginning in 1924, the Club now boasts a membership of 1,900, and what is perhaps more important has established a reputation among clubs affiliated to the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs as being one of the best-organised and most progressive Supporters' Clubs in the country. Financially, too, the Club has gone from strength to strength and its donations to the Parent Club during the past two seasons has exceeded the four-figure mark.

## PROGRESS OF THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB—*Continued.*

Many well-known sportsmen have given up hours of leisure and put in a vast amount of hard work in building up the Club to its present high level, and it is a pity that space prevents me referring to them all. It is fitting, however, that for their length of service the following should receive special mention:—Messrs. Herb. Arnold (treasurer and director), Ted Perrett (present chairman and member of the Committee for 26 years), Harry Bicknell (secretary, treasurer and director, 27 years), Bill Manning (25 years), Harry Chainey (25 years), Wilf. Martin (present vice-chairman, 18 years), "Whacker" Payne (18 years), and last but not least, Bill Stoodley, who was made a life member of the Club in 1946.

No review of the progress of the Supporters' Club would be complete without some mention of the part played by the ladies. Not to be outdone by the men, they have this season formed a section of their own. Their activities include the running of the buffets at dances, cutting the sandwiches for the Men's Section for sale at matches, running a weekly sewing class and repairing the players' kit, etc.

To conclude, the Committees would like to pay tribute to the co-operation they have received from the Board of Directors.



PRESENTATION to DAVE HALLIDAY on his departure to Scotland by the SUPPORTERS' COMMITTEE.

# Football Association Cup

Round	Result	Attendance	Gross Receipts
<b>1923-24</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 2, Frome 0	2,000	
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 13, Westbury 1		
2nd Qualifying	Wilton Rovers 1, Yeovil 2	1,750	
3rd Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Torquay United 1	3,000	
Replay	Torquay United 2, Yeovil 1	2,300	
<b>1924-25</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 9, Westbury 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 5, Clevedon 1	1,800	
2nd Qualifying	Warminster Town 1, Yeovil 3	1,000	
3rd Qualifying	Taunton 1, Yeovil 2	2,500	
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Bournemouth and Boscombe United 2	5,500	
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Bristol Rovers 4	6,600	£592
<b>1925-26</b>			
4th Qualifying	Torquay United 3, Yeovil 1	3,000	
<b>1926-27</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 10, Street 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Bristol St. George 0		
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 5, St. Austell 0		
3rd Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Barry 1	3,200	
4th Qualifying	Weymouth 4, Yeovil 1		
<b>1927-28</b>			
Preliminary	Green Waves 0, Yeovil 3	800	
1st Qualifying	Plymouth Civil Service 2, Yeovil 2		
<b>1928-29</b>			
Preliminary	Taunton 1, Yeovil 1	4,000	
Replay	Yeovil 0, Taunton 3	3,000	
1st Qualifying	Plymouth Civil Service 2, Yeovil 2		
Replay	Yeovil 6, Plymouth Civil Service 2	2,000	
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 5, Wells City 2	2,500	
3rd Qualifying	Barry 2, Yeovil 2		
Replay	Yeovil 0, Barry 0	2,000	
Second Replay	Yeovil 3, Barry 1		
4th Qualifying	Salisbury 3, Yeovil 3	2,750	
Replay	Yeovil 5, Salisbury 2		
1st Round	Yeovil 1, Plymouth Argyle 4	6,299	£426
<b>1929-30</b>			
Preliminary	Kingswood 2, Yeovil 3	872	
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Ebber Vale 3	3,000	
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 5, Weston-super-Mare 0	3,212	
3rd Qualifying	Barry 4, Yeovil 3		
<b>1930-31</b>			
Preliminary	Yeovil 5, St. Austell 4		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 1, Taunton 1	4,000	
Replay	Taunton 4, Yeovil 1	2,000	

**1931-32**

Preliminary	Yeovil 11, Wadebridge 1		
1st Qualifying	Yeovil 4, Dartmouth United 2		
2nd Qualifying	Street 1, Yeovil 4		
3rd Qualifying	Llanelli 0, Yeovil 1	6,000	
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 4, Salisbury 2	3,500	
1st Round	Yeovil 3, Hayes 1	4,100	£250
2nd Round	Fulham 0, Yeovil 0		
Replay	Yeovil 2, Fulham 5	8,004	£446

**1932-33**

4th Qualifying	Bath City 2, Yeovil 4		
1st Round	Dartford 0, Yeovil 0	5,000	£309
Replay	Yeovil 4, Dartford 2	5,000	
2nd Round	Chester 2, Yeovil 1	8,540	£475

**1933-34**

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 0, Bath City 2	4,000	£159
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**1934-35**

1st Qualifying	Tiverton 1, Yeovil 5		
2nd Qualifying	Yeovil 8, Wells City 2		
3rd Qualifying	Glastonbury 1, Yeovil 2		
4th Qualifying	Yeovil 6, Weymouth 2		
1st Round	Yeovil 3, Crystal Palace 0	8,762	
2nd Round	Yeovil 4, Exeter City 1		
3rd Round	Yeovil 2, Liverpool 6	11,810	£1,360

**1935-36**

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 2, Barry 1		
1st Round	Yeovil 0, Newport (I.O.W.) 1		

**1936-37**

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 3, Cheltenham 2	4,184	£226
1st Round	Yeovil 4, Worthing 3		
2nd Round	Walsall 1, Yeovil 1	3,924	£207
Replay	Yeovil 0, Walsall 1	5,308	£283

**1937-38**

4th Qualifying	Radstock 0, Yeovil 3	3,073	£94
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Ipswich 1	6,500	£336
2nd Round	Yeovil 2, Gainsborough Trinity 1	7,152	£397
3rd Round	Manchester United 3, Yeovil 0	49,000	£3,035

**1938-39**

4th Qualifying	Barry 2, Yeovil 5	3,452	£180
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Brighton and Hove 1	8,177	£444
2nd Round	Folkestone 1, Yeovil 1	5,825	£326
3rd Round	Sheffield Wednesday 1, Yeovil 1	24,466	£1,472
Replay	Yeovil 1, Sheffield Wednesday 2	14,329	£914

**1946-47**

4th Qualifying	Yeovil 10, Dartmouth United 2	5,860	£414
1st Round	Yeovil 2, Peterborough 2	7,512	£607
Replay	Peterborough 1, Yeovil 0		

**1947-48**

4th Qualifying	Street 2, Yeovil 1		
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**1948-49**

4th Qualifying	Lovells Athletic 2, Yeovil 3	1,200	
1st Round	Yeovil 4, Romford 0	8,600	£680
2nd Round	Weymouth 0, Yeovil 4	11,000	



## THANKS !



Yerovil Town Supporters' Club express their sincere gratitude to the sports journalists of the town, who have assisted in the production of this souvenir handbook. They are :—

ROSE KEMBLE ("R.G.K." of the *Western Gazette*).

F. D. VORSEY ("F.D.V." of the *Express and Echo*).

S. R. SIBLEY ("Yeo" of the *Evening Post*).

D. G. FOOT (*Western Gazette*).

The Club, too, are indebted to traders who have taken advertising space, and the hope is expressed that supporters in their turn will show their practical appreciation of this generosity.

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